

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	
)	
v.)	Cr. No. 2:06-CR-218-MHT
)	
GEORGE HOEY MORRIS)	
aka JOHNNY RAY FORTUNE)	

RESPONSE TO MOTION FOR CHANGE OF VENUE

Comes now the United States of America, by and through Leura Garrett Canary, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, and respectfully responds to defendant's Motion for Change of Venue, and offers the following:

Procedural History

1. In or about June 2006, a Federal Grand Jury indicted the defendant on 7 charges involving violations of chapters 117, Transportation for Illegal Sexual Activity, 75, Visa Fraud, and 44, Unlawful Acts involving Firearms, of the United States Code.

2. On or about September 7, 2006, a one-count Indictment was returned, by a properly empaneled federal grand jury, against the defendant charging him with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1542, False Statement in Application and Use of Passport.

3. In or about October 2006, the defendant was found guilty, by a properly empaneled petit jury, of 6 of the 7 charges.

4. On or about October 23, 2006, the defendant filed a Motion for Change of Venue in the present case and argued as grounds for the motion that: (1.) Newspapers in Eclectic, Alabama, Montgomery County, and Elmore County, carried "...highly prejudicial material" concerning the defendant, the trial, and the convictions; (2.) Local television stations broadcast similar reports as

well as information regarding defendant's prior conviction for distribution of cocaine; (3.) As a result of the publicity defendant has been labeled a "sexual predator" and his book, "VirginBride.Net", has been labeled as a guide to having sex with minor children; (4.) Pretrial publicity and word of mouth have created an inherently prejudicial atmosphere making the selection of a fair and impartial jury impossible; and, (5.) Trial of the defendant in the Middle District of Alabama will violate defendant's right to a fair and impartial jury as guaranteed by the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

5. Defendant argues that, in this case, the pre-trial publicity establishes presumed prejudice which mandates the granting of the instant motion.

Legal Analysis

6. To prevail on a claim a defendant must establish that the pre-trial publicity and other events surrounding the trial resulted in either actual or presumed prejudice. Cummings v. Dugger, 862 F.2d 1504 (11th Cir. 1989).

7. To determine whether presumed prejudice has been established by the defendant, the court examines whether the pre-trial publicity was sufficiently prejudicial and inflammatory and whether the publicity saturated the community in which the trial is to be or was held. Coleman v. Kemp, 778 F.2d 1487 (11th Cir. 1985); Mills v. Singletary, 63 F.3d 999 (11th Cir. 1995); Spivey v. Head, 207 F.3d 1263 (11th Cir. 2000).

8. The saturation prong of the evaluation is separated into two separate inquiries: (1) defendant must prove that a substantial number of the people in the community could have been exposed to some of the prejudicial media coverage; and, (2) that the effects of the media saturation continued until the trial. Heath v. Jones, 941 F.2d 1126 (11th Cir. 1991).

Argument

9. The United States opposes the motion to transfer venue. The Middle District of Alabama is where the defendant is domiciled and where the crime occurred.

10. The United States contends that the publicity, of which defendant speaks, has not been “sufficiently prejudicial and inflammatory”, nor has the publicity “saturated the community” or been so pervasive so as to make a fair trial by an impartial jury an impossibility.

11. Prejudice is not presumed simply because the defendant’s criminal record is well publicized, Bundy v. Dugger, 850 F.2d 1402 (11th Cir. 1988), nor simply because the community was aware of the defendant’s alleged misconduct. United States v. De La Vega, 913 F.2d 861 (11th Cir. 1990).

12. The defendant’s motion does not give examples, or speak to the nature of the pre-trial publicity he deems to be highly prejudicial and inflammatory. The government contends that because of this failure, the defendant fails in his burden under Coleman, et al. to establish that the publicity was prejudicial and inflammatory, let alone that it was *sufficiently* prejudicial and inflammatory to sustain a finding of presumed prejudice.

13. The defendant states that newspapers and television stations in Eclectic, Alabama, and Montgomery and Elmore County, Alabama, carried coverage of either the allegations, the trial, or conviction, or some combination thereof.

14. The Middle District of Alabama consists of 23 counties. Of those 23 counties, Eclectic, Alabama is located in Elmore County. Therefor, by the defendant’s own statement, at most, there are 2 counties which have some prior knowledge of earlier allegations, the trial and/or the conviction.

15. The government contends that the “community” which is to be considered when making this evaluation, is the whole of the Middle District of Alabama, that being all 23 counties. In light of the fact that only 2 counties received any type of media coverage of the earlier case, it cannot be successfully argued that the community has been “saturated” by publicity, and defendant fails in his burden of establishing that a substantial number of the people in the community could have been exposed to some of the prejudicial media coverage.

16. Further, the defendant does not include copies or examples of the alleged publicity and does not offer dates of broadcasts or printings. The Government is aware of, and makes available to the Court, articles it has collected, attached to this response as Exhibit A. It is clear that, past October 12, 2006, no further publicity has been generated. The government contends that this fact defeats the second prong of the Heath test, because it is clear that a “cooling off” period has occurred between the publicity and the trial date of October 30, 2006.

17. The articles published by the *Eclectic Observer*, the *Montgomery Advertiser*, and the *Wetumpka Herald*, recount the defendant’s trips to Vietnam, his marriages to Vietnamese females, his publications, his websites, his legal battles, his charges and his convictions. There is nothing inherently prejudicial or inflammatory in any of the articles.

18. The articles from Florida and the computer blogs also recount no prejudicial or inflammatory information sufficient for the Court to find that presumed, or actual prejudice, exists.

19. Additionally, as the articles of Exhibit A (The *Wetumpka Herald*, dated October 11, 2006, The *Eclectic Observer*, dated October 3, 2005) indicate, and recorded phone calls from the Montgomery City Jail, by the defendant, establish, the government contends that at a hearing

it would show that the defendant has generated much of the pre-trial publicity and interest by calling and writing to various newspapers and reporters about the charges and the investigation(s), and has placed several self-authored articles on websites he maintains. The defendant should not be allowed to create pre-trial publicity and at the same time insist on a change of venue because of his creation.

20. Finally, should the court determine that the pre-trial publicity (1) was **sufficiently** prejudicial and inflammatory and (2) that the publicity saturated the Middle District of Alabama, the government submits that the ultimate question is whether it is possible to select a fair and impartial jury to try the defendant. The government respectfully submits that the proper occasion for such a determination is made upon voir dire examination and that an evidentiary hearing on the motion is premature at this time.

For the reasons stated above, the United States requests that this Honorable Court deny the defendant's Motion for Change of Venue.

Respectfully submitted this the 26th day of October, 2006.

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FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 26, 2006, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following: J. Carlton Taylor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Articles -Exhibit A

Eclectic Observer

April 3, 2003

June 23, 2005

October 3, 2005

October 22, 2005

October 11, 2006

Montgomery Advertiser

October 7, 2006

October 12, 2006 (Reprint of October 5, 2006 computer blog posting)

Wetumpka Herald

October 11, 2006

Florida

October 2005 (WJHG-TV)

December 2005 (WEAR-TV)

Computer Blog

October 5, 2006

Websites

www.webvietnam.info

www.georgehoeymorris.com

www.virginbride.net

www.whynowdumka.us (October 15, 2005)

www.theworldaroundyou.com (September 24, 2004)

www.poe-news.com (March 17, 2004)

WSFA

Computer Blog printed October 9, 2006

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Area man writes book on Vietnam

An Eclectic man who was formerly prohibited from visiting Vietnam by the government has been granted a multiple entry visa that he says allows him to come and go as he pleases. Observer readers may remember when Hoey Morris was deported from that nation on three occasions during the mid-nineties. According to him, things have changed a lot in Vietnam since then. "All they can do about now is tourism", he told the Observer.

Vol. 16 • No. 25

Thursday, June 23, 2005

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The Eclectic Observer

Morris placed in federal custody

Eclectic man jailed 'to protect the community'

By David Goodwin

News Editor

A federal judge ordered U.S. Marshals to take Eclectic resident George Hoey Morris into custody Friday after hearing testimony that he is a flight risk and a threat to his community.

Morris, 57, was indicted on charges of fraud and misuse of visas and permits on April 20, in relation to his use of an atlas

—Johnny Ray Fortune — to gain entry to Vietnam, a country that deported him in 2003. He was then placed under house arrest with a tracking device locked around his ankle.

But after a pretrial hearing June 17, U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Russ Walker concluded "there are no conditions or combination of conditions which will reasonably assure the appearance of (Morris), or protect the community and that the

defendant should be detained," according to her written order.

Morris — author of a book explaining how to "enjoy legal sex with very young females" — was put in the custody of U.S. Marshals, U.S. Attorney Laura Canary said. Marshals

See MORRIS, Page 7 ►

Harassment conviction appealed

By David Goodwin

News Editor

George Hoey Morris was convicted in Elmore County District Court on May 26 of two counts of harassment.

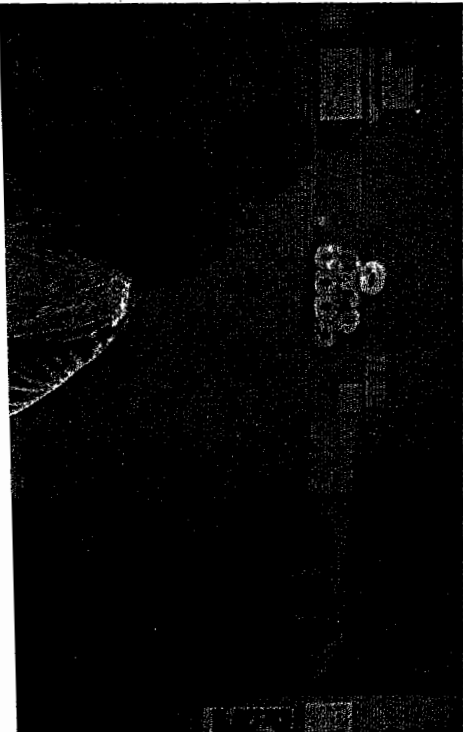
Morris appealed the verdict to circuit court, where the process will start over. But District Attorney Randall Houston said he then sent the information to

U.S. Attorney Laura Garrett Canary for use in an ongoing investigation of Morris's activities. Morris was convicted of "approaching two juveniles and asking to take pictures of them," assistant district attorney B.J. Lewis said. One of the victims, he added, was a 12-year-old.

Each count carries a possible sentence of three months in jail.

Quiz Kids

Middle school students travel to Colorado for



Coming attraction: Contractors expect Eclectic's new

David Goodwin/The Observer

generally place subjects in the care of a local jail, but Canary was not sure where he is being held. Jury selection in Morris was scheduled for Aug. 1.

In a letter postmarked June 15 — two days before he was put in federal custody — Morris told *The Observer* "this charge was the result of an error I made four years ago."

"The charge was a result of frustrated investigators who would not admit they made a mistake," Morris wrote.

Walker's order listed numerous incarcerations for Morris, including prior convictions, the risk he might flee prosecution and many ongoing investigations into activities related to his book and Web site.

Due to their explicit and exploitative content, *The Observer* declines to publish the name of Morris' book or Web site.

Morris was convicted in Elmore County District Court on May 26 of two counts of harassment for asking two juveniles — including one 12-year-old girl — to participate in his "mooching business."

Walker's order also lists convictions for the sale of narcotics and attempting to elude police and pending charges for failure to appear on two drug charges in Elmore County.

During a Jan. 20 raid by FBI, Alabama Bureau of Investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Morris' home computer, more than 3,000 CD's and a cell phone were seized as evidence.

FBI spokesman Craig Dabie and ICE spokesman Temple Black both said the agencies' investigation into Morris' activities is ongoing.

Morris is also charged with third-degree possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, which was discovered during a March 17 raid of his home. Police entered his home on reports that two juvenile girls, 13 and 15 years old, were at his home without their parents' consent. Though Eclectic Police Chief Gordon Ledbetter said the two girls

were later found elsewhere, the strong aroma of marijuana at Morris' home led police to the cannabis residue and paraphernalia.

Testimony at the hearing established that Morris is an extreme flight risk. According to court records, Morris' sister "void law enforcement that Morris" stated to her that the government did not find all of his passports.

A book Morris wrote was also entered into evidence, with court records quoting Morris "had sexual relations with more than 400 females of all ages outside the jurisdiction of the United States."

Morris travels frequently, and has admitted to visiting some 65 foreign countries, 39 states and six U.S. territories. "I have been deported three times from Vietnam and I

often travel there as Johnny Ray Fortune," Morris told *The Observer* in a January e-mail to the former editor. "The warrant (was) for forging that name during my travels."

After the warrant was obtained by the Department of Homeland Security, Morris fled to Houston, where the FBI arrested him. Morris said the FBI and the Vietnamese government were both aware of his use of the pseudonym, though his use of the name "Johnny Ray Fortune" precipitated the indictment for visa fraud.

Court records state Morris told *The Observer* in March "that he was leaving Eclectic. 'I am out of the country and am not answering my phone,'" Morris said in a e-mail.

continued from page 1

Morris is currently under investigation for misuse of a Social Security number in Florida and for forging, voter fraud and possession of child pornography in Alabama.

Walker's order states: "Court records also state Morris is under investigation in the Eclectic area for 'allegedly approaching' young girls — aged 8, 9, 12 and 15 — and asking them to pose for photographs."

The 9-year-old was allegedly asked to pose in her underwear, and the 12-year-old was asked to pose nude.

Morris is the proprietor of a Web site that lists strategies to "enjoy legal sex with very young females." A picture of two young, scantily clad Asian girls dominates the first page of the site, which lists Morris' name and the URL of "victim."

Elmore County

Eclectic

Walker

Morris

Walker's order

Walker's order

Walker's order

Walker's order

Walker's order

Walker's order



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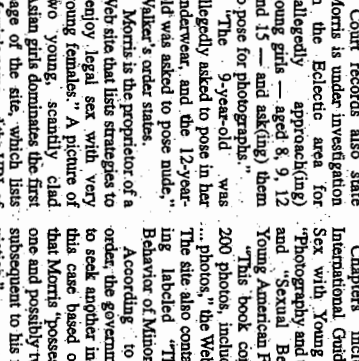
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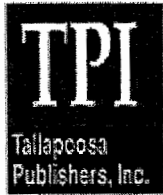
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Morris
sd

Eclectic Observer > News

Morris blames town, state, feds for legal troubles

By David Goodwin

Updated: Monday, October 03, 2005

In a 9,000-word statement mailed to The Observer last week, embattled Eclectic resident George Hoey Morris, who remains in federal custody on immigration and firearms charges, blames a conspiracy of local, state and federal officials for his ongoing legal troubles.

Morris - author of a self-described "instruction manual" for those seeking sex with minors - claims in "Homeland Insecurity" that a Homeland Security agent and the town's mayor conspired to rob him of his constitutional rights.

"Mayor (Alan) Nummy used the EPD ... as his private Gestapo," Morris wrote in the statement, also posted on his Web site. Morris will be tried in federal court for visa fraud and two federal gun charges. The trial is scheduled for November, though the Morris investigation is ongoing, according to state and federal law enforcement officials.

"I'm chomping at the bit to get them back in court," he said last week by telephone, "but my lawyer's making me wait until November."

Nummy - an employee of Alabama Attorney General Troy King who had previously declined comment to respect the ongoing federal prosecution - said Tuesday he had read "Homeland Insecurity."

"I found it to be one of the best works of fiction I've read lately," Nummy said, adding a categorical denial of Morris' charges. "The only conspiracy on my part is to find and prosecute those who break the law."

Eclectic native Thomas Coram Jr., a field agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is not permitted to comment on ongoing investigations.

The "illegal alliance," Morris said, enfolded law enforcement agencies from the Eclectic Police Department to the Alabama State Troopers and FBI. The conspirators were out "to ruin me and my family," Morris said, "because they could not get charges of child pornography to stick."

Morris' legal battles began in April 2003, he said, when a truck carrying 1,000 copies of his book and 800 copies of a "young models" CD was confiscated near Andalusia. The book - which The Observer declines to name due to its explicit and exploitative content - contains hundred of pictures of underage females, often in minimal clothing.

However, charges were never filed against Morris in Andalusia, and current Covington County District Attorney Gregory Gambriel said a grand jury did not return an indictment on the truck's driver, West Virginia resident Adam Sage. But, Gambriel added, that could mean the grand jury didn't find the material to be pornographic, or that they believed Sage had no knowledge of his

cargo.

Morris repeatedly disputes charges of child pornography in "Homeland Insecurity," though the recent investigation has focused on his overseas travels and the very young southeast Asian girls that dominate his book, not the content of the pictures.

Morris traveled extensively to Vietnam to research an article on anti-American sentiment during and after the Vietnam War. He is also known to have married, then divorced, multiple Vietnamese girls younger than 16.

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The Alexander City Outlook

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Print Page

Eclectic Observer > News

Morris charged with Fla. voter fraud

By David Goodwin

Updated: Saturday, October 22, 2005

Eclectic resident George Hoey Morris knows the law.

Much of his self-published book - a kind of instructional manual for man-girl matrimony - discusses laws relating to child pornography, sexual abuse and international travel, in an effort to demonstrate "how to enjoy legal sex with very young females"

But Morris should have paid closer attention to statutes regarding the rights, and limitations, of those who have felony convictions.

Morris was charged with elections fraud in Okaloosa County (Fla.) last week. Though he is already in the custody of U.S. Marshalls at the Montgomery City Jail, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department filed a "detainer" against Morris to ensure that, should he be released, the Okaloosa County Jail will be his next stop.

Morris was convicted in 1980 of felony narcotics distribution in Colorado. According to sheriff's department spokesperson Michele Nicholson, Morris registered to vote in 1999 and cast a ballot in the 2002 midterm elections, in violation of Florida election laws. He is charged with false swearing of voter information in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Morris will stand trial on a number of federal charges during the first week of November. He is charged with visa fraud - for lying about his marital status on a visa application - and two federal gun charges. The gun charges alone could carry a sentence of 10 years, according to U.S. Attorney Leura Garrett Canary. An Eclectic-based harassment charge was dismissed in Circuit Court last week, but prosecutors plan to present the evidence to a grand jury and seek a felony charge instead.

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The Alexander City Outlook

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The Eclectic Observer

Thursday October

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Eclectic News > Eclectic Observer

Juries find Virginbride.net author guilty

By Donna Sparks-Managing Editor

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 8:57 PM CDT

Before Alan Nummy had been sworn in as mayor of Eclectic, one of the first items of business brought to his attention concerned possible illegal activity by a resident in the town.

That item of business was settled Oct. 6 in Montgomery when a federal jury found George Hoey Morris, 59, guilty of transportation for illegal sexual activity, visa fraud and being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Morris caused great concern to other residents in the town with his book, virginbride.net, in which he described how to find young virgins, have sex with them and bring them back to America, all legally.

Nummy first received calls from several citizens about Morris' involvement with an acquaintance on Harden Court.

The police department did make an arrest of Morris' acquaintance on Harden Court for drugs. She later chose to leave Eclectic.

"An agent from the Attorney General's office came to see me and questioned me about my knowledge of Hoey, and to advise me about an investigation under way involving illegal activities," Nummy said. "He said he would appreciate it if the Eclectic Police Department would pass any information about Morris they received to the Attorney General's office."

After Nummy was sworn in, a new police chief and officers were hired, and he continued to receive complaints about Morris.

"These residents felt like they weren't getting the service they needed, but I could not interfere with the investigation already being conducted," Nummy said.

The investigation was initiated when the Immigration and Customs Enforcement CyberCrime Center (ICE) in Washington, D.C., received information from the Library of Congress that Morris was seeking a copyright for his book. The center referred the



George Hoey Morris

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Flora



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334-567



58

more...

case to ICE agents assigned to the Montgomery office.

One afternoon, Nummy was advised that a multi-agency search would take place at Morris' home at 101 Claud Road the next day.

"After that search, Mr. Morris apparently considered me to be one of his main antagonists, and he began his campaign to discredit me and the Eclectic Police Department," Nummy said. "This campaign ranged from letters to the editors of newspapers, and even an attempt to discredit police officer Chris Miles. He also asserted that Chris is my nephew."

But Morris also attempted to entice the police department into taking actions that would appear to be harassment, Nummy said. One of these included speeding through the town in front of First Baptist Church during the morning services, and other areas, playing his car stereo very loudly.

"I told the police department not to let Hoey pull them into his trap," Nummy said.

During this time, the mayor's office continued getting calls from citizens.

"We had a report of missing 13- and 15-year-olds who were allegedly at Hoey's house," Nummy said. "Chief Ledbetter and EPD officers went to his house looking for the girls, but they weren't at the residence. It turned out they were with his son and a friend. Hoey's son was not charged, however, his friend was convicted of second degree rape in connection with this incident."

Morris continued making accusations until his incarceration.

"Hoey even complained to the sheriff's office about the Eclectic Police Department," Nummy said. "One of those calls resulted in the discovery of the gun he was later convicted of possessing. The EPD also arrested him for drug charges."

Nummy points out that the town's involvement in this case has been to assist state and federal agencies with their investigation.

"No felony charges have ever been filed on Hoey Morris by the EPD," he said.

But the federal government presented its evidence during the trial, asserting that in 1989, Morris flew a light plane into the Socialist Republic of Vietnam without permission and was deported from that country, an event that would occur four times before 1997. Because of these actions, Morris was barred from re-entering Vietnam.

According to the U.S. Attorney's office, in 1997, Morris legally changed his name to Johnny Ray Fortune and was able receive a new passport under that name, allowing him to make more trips to Vietnam.

The evidence showed Fortune made more than 20 trips to Vietnam during the 1990s, engaging in sexual activity with Vietnamese girls under the age of 16, taking at least two of the girls to Thailand for the purpose of engaging in further illegal sexual conduct with them.

In June 2006, a federal grand jury in Montgomery returned an indictment charging Morris with transportation of illegal sexual activity and visa fraud. Morris was also charged with federal firearms violations for possessing a firearm in spite of a prior felony conviction and alleged drug use.

Reports show the federal firearms charges were later severed from the visa fraud and transportation for illegal sexual activity charges, and the two cases were tried separately before different judges.

A jury began hearing testimony on the federal firearms charges Oct. 2 before the Honorable L. Scott Coogler, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Alabama who was sitting as a visiting judge in the Middle District of Alabama.

When the jury began deliberations on the firearms charges, trial on the visa fraud and transportation charges began before a separate jury. The jury returned a guilty verdict against Morris Oct. 4 on the federal firearms charges. The second jury also returned a guilty verdict against Morris Oct. 5 on the counts of the indictment involving transportation for illegal sexual activity and visa fraud.

U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary of the Middle District of Alabama said, "We are extremely pleased with these verdicts. Our office will vigilantly prosecute predators of children and seek the maximum penalty permitted under federal law."

Michael A. Holt, Special Agent-In-Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New Orleans said, "Predators exploit children in many different ways. ICE will continue to work diligently with U.S. Attorneys and local police and sheriff's departments to hold those who prey on the most vulnerable in society responsible for their actions."

Morris will be sentenced in December. He faces a sentence of up to 20 years on some of the transportation charges (counts one and two), the visa fraud charges and the federal firearms charges, and up to 15 years on certain other transportation charges (counts three and four). Morris also faces a fine of up to \$250,000 for each charge on which he was convicted.

While Morris said he was being treated unjustly by law enforcement, Nummy said that wasn't true.

"As far as I'm concerned, he wasn't treated any differently than other criminal defendants," he said. "It's arrogant that Hoey feels we went to extreme means to get him, when all we did was cooperate with other agencies, just as we would with any investigation. We will always provide that assistance."

Nummy also wants the residents in Eclectic to understand that part of being an elected official means not always being able to answer questions from citizens.


"Because this was a federal investigation, we could not answer any questions about the case," he said. "I feel vindicated now after seeing the end result."

Nummy is relieved that Morris will be behind bars now.

"I feel for his family, but I believe justice was served and that the community is now a safer place," Nummy said. "I have no doubt he was a serious threat to Eclectic and other communities."

The case was investigated by the Eclectic Police Department, Elmore County Sheriff's Department, Alabama Attorney General's Office, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, with the aid and cooperation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Todd Brown and Susan Redmond.

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1. Book gets officials' attention

June 22, 2003 .. 1119 words .. ID: mnt31707302

"Virginbrides.net" is the focus of an investigation into whether the book is pornography. An Elmore County man may be facing child pornography charges in Covington County after authorities seized 1,000 books he authored on how to find young, virgin brides. George Hoey Morris, 57, of Eclectic wrote the book, "Virginbrides.net," which chronicles his international travels seeking young brides. Morris said he has been married four times to **BUY**

2. Man wants confiscated books, CDs returned

November 7, 2003 .. 525 words .. ID: mnt34518717

An Elmore County man wants to get his property back from Covington County authorities, who seized books and compact discs in April on the grounds they were child pornography. George Hoey Morris, 57, wrote the book "Virginbride.net," which chronicles his international travels seeking young brides. Adam Sage of Inwood, W.Va., was arrested in Andalusia in April, and was charged with two counts of intention to distribute child

pornography when he was stopped while **BUY**

3. Sex trade guide author convicted

October 7, 2006 -- 366 words -- ID: mnt16975201

sjohnson3@gannett.com 59-year-old man found guilty of transporting girls from Vietnam for illegal activity An Eclectic man's "how-to" guide on finding teenage girls for sex likely will earn him a stint in a place where his companionship will be entirely of the adult male variety. George Hoey Morris, 59, was convicted by a federal grand jury this week on charges of transportation for illegal sexual activity, visa fraud and being a previously convicted **BUY**

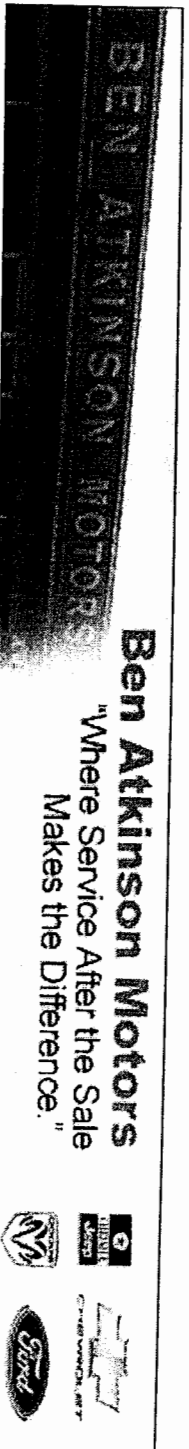
4. Tri-Countyline

October 19, 2005 -- 474 words -- ID: mnt9019354

MONTGOMERY Eclectic author faces federal charges MONTGOMERY -- A man who has written a book and has a Web site that promotes sex and marriage between men and girls as young as 12 was being held Tuesday in the Montgomery city jail on a voter fraud charge from Okaloosa County, Fla. Authorities said George Hoey Morris, 58, of Eclectic also is being held on a federal charge of immigration fraud. He is the author of Virginbride.net, a self-published book that tells men how to travel to **BUY**

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Sex trade guide author convicted

By Scott Johnson
Montgomery Advertiser

October 7, 2006

An Eclectic man's "how-to" guide on finding teenage girls for sex likely will earn him a stint in a place where his companionship will be entirely of the adult male variety.

George Hoey Morris, 59, was convicted by a federal grand jury this week on charges of transportation for illegal sexual activity, visa fraud and being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm for his role in transporting girls from Vietnam to the United States.

Morris is scheduled to be sentenced in December.

Federal authorities began investigating Morris when they discovered he had written a book on how to find underage girls in foreign countries for sex. The Library of Congress informed officials that Morris was seeking a copyright for the book.

The book has the same name as a Web site on the subject and states its purpose clearly:

"(This book) tells you how you can enjoy legal sex with very young females ... (It) tells you where the virgins are and what U.S. government forms you need to fill out to bring them home."

Eclectic Mayor Alan Nummy said he was relieved that Morris had been convicted.

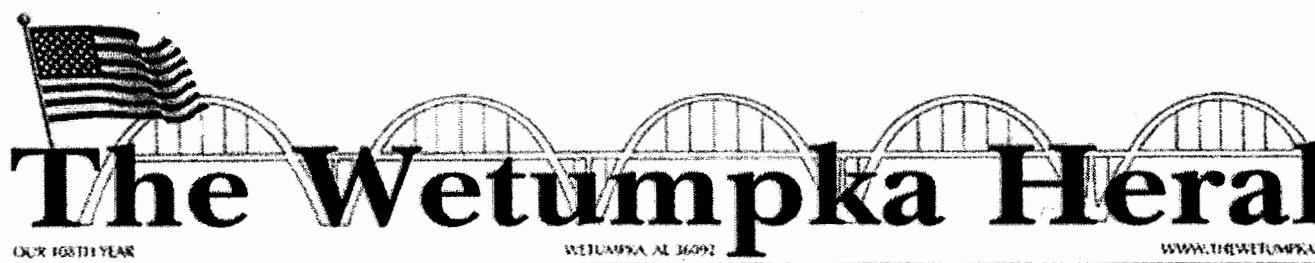
"I feel for his family, but I feel like he was a threat to the community and I'm glad he's off the streets," Nummy said.

Morris has been jailed previously for a number of offenses. He even had gone on the offensive in his struggles with the law, Nummy said.

"Before he was locked up, he engaged in a pattern of attempted intimidation against me" and law enforcement officials, Nummy said. The efforts were "very aggressive," the mayor added, but unsuccessful.

The visa fraud charges stemmed from Morris' applying for fiancée visas, which the government will sometimes grant when a person from a foreign country intends to marry an American citizen, U.S. Attorney Louis Franklin said.

During the 1990s, Morris made more than 20 trips to Vietnam, sometimes under the name Johnny Ray Fortune. Prosecutors said he often would take the girls from Vietnam to Thailand, where laws against sex with minors are not enforced as strictly as in some other countries.

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Juries find Virginbride.net author guilty

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By Donna Sparks-Managing Editor

Before Alan Nummy had been sworn in as mayor of Eclectic, one of the first items of business brought to his attention concerned possible illegal activity by a resident in the town.

That item of business was settled Oct. 6 in Montgomery when a federal jury found George Hoey Morris, 59, guilty of transportation for illegal sexual activity, visa fraud and being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Morris caused great concern to other residents in the town with his book, virginbride.net, in which he described how to find young virgins, have sex with them and bring them back to America, all legally.

Nummy first received calls from several citizens about Morris' involvement with an acquaintance on Harden Court.

The police department did make an arrest of Morris' acquaintance on Harden Court for drugs. She later chose to leave Eclectic.

"An agent from the Attorney General's office came to see me and questioned me about my knowledge of Hoey, and to advise me about an investigation under way involving illegal activities," Nummy said. "He said he would appreciate it if the Eclectic Police Department would pass any information about Morris they received to the Attorney General's office."

After Nummy was sworn in, a new police chief and officers were hired, and he continued to receive complaints about Morris.

"These residents felt like they weren't getting the service they needed, but I could not interfere with the investigation already being conducted," Nummy said.

The investigation was initiated when the Immigration and Customs Enforcement CyberCrime Center (ICE) in Washington, D.C., received information from the Library of Congress that Morris was seeking a copyright for his book. The center referred the case to ICE agents assigned to the Montgomery office.

One afternoon, Nummy was advised that a multi-agency search would take place at Morris' home at 101 Claud Road the next day.

"After that search, Mr. Morris apparently considered me to be one of his main antagonists, and he began

his campaign to discredit me and the Eclectic Police Department,” Nummy said. “This campaign ranged from letters to the editors of newspapers, and even an attempt to discredit police officer Chris Miles. He also asserted that Chris is my nephew.”

"I told the police department not to let Hoey pull them into his trap," Nummy said.

“We had a report of missing 13- and 15-year-olds who were allegedly at Hoey’s house,” Nummy said. “Chief Ledbetter and EPD officers went to his house looking for the girls, but they weren’t at the residence. It turned out they were with his son and a friend. Hoey’s son was not charged, however, his friend was convicted of second degree rape in connection with this incident.”

“Hoey even complained to the sheriff’s office about the Eclectic Police Department,” Nummy said. “One of those calls resulted in the discovery of the gun he was later convicted of possessing. The EPD also arrested him for drug charges.”

"No felony charges have ever been filed on Hoey Morris by the EPD," he said.

According to the U.S. Attorney's office, in 1997, Morris legally changed his name to Johnny Ray Fortune and was able receive a new passport under that name, allowing him to make more trips to Vietnam.

In June 2006, a federal grand jury in Montgomery returned an indictment charging Morris with transportation of illegal sexual activity and visa fraud. Morris was also charged with federal firearms violations for possessing a firearm in spite of a prior felony conviction and alleged drug use.

A jury began hearing testimony on the federal firearms charges Oct. 2 before the Honorable L. Scott Coogler, United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Alabama who was sitting as a

visiting judge in the Middle District of Alabama.

When the jury began deliberations on the firearms charges, trial on the visa fraud and transportation charges began before a separate jury. The jury returned a guilty verdict against Morris Oct. 4 on the federal firearms charges. The second jury also returned a guilty verdict against Morris Oct. 5 on the counts of the indictment involving transportation for illegal sexual activity and visa fraud.

U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary of the Middle District of Alabama said, "We are extremely pleased with these verdicts. Our office will vigilantly prosecute predators of children and seek the maximum penalty permitted under federal law."

Michael A. Holt, Special Agent-In-Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New Orleans said, "Predators exploit children in many different ways. ICE will continue to work diligently with U.S. Attorneys and local police and sheriff's departments to hold those who prey on the most vulnerable in society responsible for their actions."

Morris will be sentenced in December. He faces a sentence of up to 20 years on some of the transportation charges (counts one and two), the visa fraud charges and the federal firearms charges, and up to 15 years on certain other transportation charges (counts three and four). Morris also faces a fine of up to \$250,000 for each charge on which he was convicted.

While Morris said he was being treated unjustly by law enforcement, Nummy said that wasn't true.

"As far as I'm concerned, he wasn't treated any differently than other criminal defendants," he said. "It's arrogant that Hoey feels we went to extreme means to get him, when all we did was cooperate with other agencies, just as we would with any investigation. We will always provide that assistance."

Nummy also wants the residents in Eclectic to understand that part of being an elected official means not always being able to answer questions from citizens.

"Because this was a federal investigation, we could not answer any questions about the case," he said. "I feel vindicated now after seeing the end result."

Nummy is relieved that Morris will be behind bars now.

"I feel for his family, but I believe justice was served and that the community is now a safer place," Nummy said. "I have no doubt he was a serious threat to Eclectic and other communities."

The case was investigated by the Eclectic Police Department, Elmore County Sheriff's Department, Alabama Attorney General's Office, Alabama Bureau of Investigation, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, with the aid and cooperation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Todd Brown and Susan Redmond.



Elections Fraud Arrest of Alleged Conspirator in International Sex investigation

WJHG-TV

The Okaloosa County Sheriffs Office says a man at the center of an international child sex investigation is being held in Montgomery, Alabama on a felony voting fraud charge out of Ft. Walton Beach. Fifty-eight-year-old George Hoey Morris, of 385 Wade Morris Road in Eclectic, Alabama, and formerly of Okaloosa County, is charged with false swearing of voter information.

Investigators with the Okaloosa Sheriffs Office say although Hoey was convicted of a felony offense involving the sale of illegal narcotics in Colorado in 1980, he registered as a qualified voter in Okaloosa County in 1999 and cast a ballot in November 2002, a violation of Florida election laws.

Federal authorities say the arrest means Morris will remain in detention in the Montgomery Alabama City Jail where hes also charged with immigration fraud.

Morris is at the center of an international probe involving allegations he took part in unlawful sex with hundreds of minor females between the ages of eleven and fifteen in other countries, including Vietnam, Thailand and Mexico.

Law enforcement officials believe Morris poses a danger to the community and is a flight risk.

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News

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SRE


Hoey
Morris

EVERY GREAT
PLAN BEGINS
WITH A
PARTNER.

Morris Disputes Immigration & Voting Fraud Charges
By: mbarrows@sbgn.net

A former Fort Walton Beach man, who ran a website devoted to legally having sex with underage girls, says the government is violating his civil rights. George Hoey Morris filed a complaint against Homeland Security, Immigrations Customs Enforcement or "ICE" and "ICE" Officer Thomas Coram, Jr. In the suit, Morris claims Alabama agents, especially Coram, tried unsuccessfully to arrest him for child pornography and other sex crimes against children. Out of frustration, Morris says they generated immigration and voting fraud charges against him. Morris is seeking hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages for unlawful imprisonment, humiliation, and violating his free speech.

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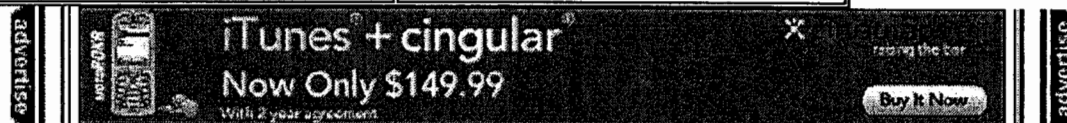
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Virgin Bride Case Completes Second Day

Oct 5, 2006 09:03 AM

MONTGOMERY, Ala., October 4, 2006 -- The trial of George Hoey Morris known for his book explaining to readers how to bring "Virgin Brides" into the United States from other countries ended the first full day of testimony on Wednesday with the jury getting to watch and hear from the alleged victim of Morris' alleged crimes, Thao Pham, through a video deposition.

The government alleges Morris married Thao Pham in Vietnam on April 15, 1999 when she was underage (15 years old), and knowingly transported her in foreign commerce, or knowingly induced her to travel in foreign commerce with the intent that she engage in sexual activity with him, among other charges.

Morris's attorney had filed a motion to try and prevent the inclusion of the recorded testimony of Thao Pham claiming the "right of marital privilege" but the motion was denied by Magistrate Judge Susan Walker stating "a defendant spouse may not commit abuse or another offense and then hide behind the marital privilege to shield himself from criminal prosecution based on that abuse."

The jury almost didn't get to see the testimony when the court could not find a laptop that would play the DVD - R on which the deposition was recorded. Computers were tried all over the federal courthouse until first one brought in from the prosecutor's office was gotten working by a young man and simultaneously one brought up from elsewhere in the building was massaged carefully by Judge Coogler, with his robe off and doing his best impersonation of a computer technician, showed signs of life and court was finally back in session after almost an hour of effort, late Wednesday afternoon.

The judge kept his sense of humor throughout at one point mimicking the herky jerky action on the video that was not playing correctly when they tried to get the DVD to go back to the beginning. Coogler drew hearty laughs from the gaggle of attorneys gathered around him as he finally got a machine working. One could tell the judge, who had showed amazing patience during the ordeal, finally was getting a little irritated when he grabbed his robe and upon return to the bench said, "We're holding up the jury...Let's get our players in."

In the first 50 minutes of the deposition, the remaining 40 minutes and another hour and a half plus will be shown to the jury on Thursday, Thao Pham is shown answering questions from Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Redmond.

Pham answers questions about her background indicating she was living in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, better known to many as Saigon, with her parents when she met George Hoey Morris, aka Johnny Ray Fortune. Pham knew the defendant by the name "Johnny" or "Mr. Johnny."

Pham told Redmond, through a translator, she knew Fortune because, "Mr. Johnny went to Vietnam. He came to marry my older sister." Pham told the government attorney during questioning that she first met "Johnny" in an area of Ho Chi Minh City reserved for "Americans who come to Vietnam." She says she traveled to the

area with her sister and her parents. When asked what had happened at the meeting, Pham says, "When we came there Mr. Johnny changed his mind. He did not want to marry my sister, but marry me." She says she was 15 years old at the time. Pham says she was not old enough to marry in Vietnam.

The young woman says when Johnny changed his mind about marrying her sister, "All he said to my family was he change his mind and wants to marry me." She said after that "we had a party." She says the party was before they actually got married. She was asked to identify a "marriage invitation card" bearing both her name and Johnny's name. She also identified her birth certificate that showed a date of birth in December 1983.

Pham told the prosecutor she was married on a boat and wore a wedding gown and confirmed that pictures were taken of her at the event. She identified a picture of her standing next to Johnny at the wedding.

She says she went back home with her parents that evening. Redmond asked Pham, "Who told you that Johnny was your husband?" Pham answered, "My mother said."

"So a judge, or a monk, or a priest did not tell you that you and Johnny were married?"

"No, ma'am," replied Pham.

Pham says the next morning she went to the airport in Vietnam with her family and Johnny, but she got on the plane only with Johnny. She says they went "to Thailand" and "stay at the hotel in Bangkok."

When asked if she and Johnny stayed in "one room or two rooms," Pham answered, "One room, ma'am." When asked what she and Johnny did the Vietnamese woman says, "Ma'am Johnny and I stay and sleep together." She says they also went "shopping and eating."

At around 4:43 p.m. during the video a note came in to the judge from the jury deliberating the gun charge. The judge had the note with his written reply shown to the attorneys and carried back to the other courtroom.

Back with the Pham video deposition, Redmond asks Pham, "When you were in Bangkok did the two of you have sex?" "Yes ma'am," came the reply from Pham. Pham says she doesn't remember how long she was in Bangkok but believes it was more than one day before the pair went by boat to an island called Phuket. When asked if she and Johnny had sex while they were staying in Phuket, Pham again answered in the affirmative. She was shown and remembered photos being taken of her in Phuket.

There is one picture of her in a black slip or dress and another of Pham on a boat with Johnny next to her.

Pham acknowledges she had a passport that allowed her to travel but prosecutors

asked her who kept her passport in 1999 and Pham said simply, "Johnny." When asked if she had ever had physical possession of that passport she answered, "No ma'am."

At 5 p.m. Judge Coogler had the DVD stopped and sent the jury home after advising them not to "call, e-mail, send a pigeon or a fax -- anything with each other." The judge asked if the pigeon or fax line didn't come from a song and someone said they thought it was from one by George Strait.

The jury will probably be eager to try more biscuits Thursday courtesy of the Middle District after the judge told them as Wednesday started that he hoped they enjoyed the biscuits. "We don't do that in the Northern District...If you were in the Northern District you would have not gotten the first biscuit."

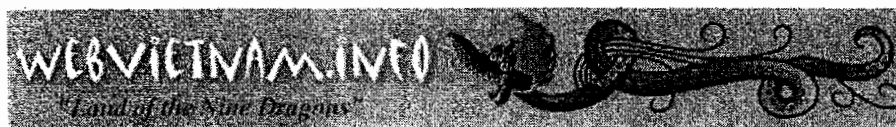
The judge then took up the matter of the jury in the courtroom next door as attorneys followed him into the next courtroom.

Morris is also facing two illegal possession of firearms counts, separated out of the indictment by Judge Coogler and being tried in the courtroom next door. The firearm charge jury is in the deliberation phase and has sent notes to Judge Coogler indicating they have been unable to come to agreement. Late Wednesday, the Judge asked the jury to "please continue deliberating" and "we'll make a decision tomorrow if we still can't reach a verdict."

The judge indicated the jury had said in one of their notes that a break might allow the processing of information. He gave the firearm charge jury the same admonition he had given the other jury advising them not to be in contact with each other, "I don't care if your best friend is sitting next to you." The jury will return Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

The foreman of the jury had to be excused from that jury around lunchtime after he reported to the judge he had seen some negatives of photos that reminded him he knew of the defendant. Judge Coogler did not feel at first the juror should be removed but after both the prosecution and defense stated they wanted him removed out of an abundance of caution the judge sent him home.

Reported by: Helen Hammons



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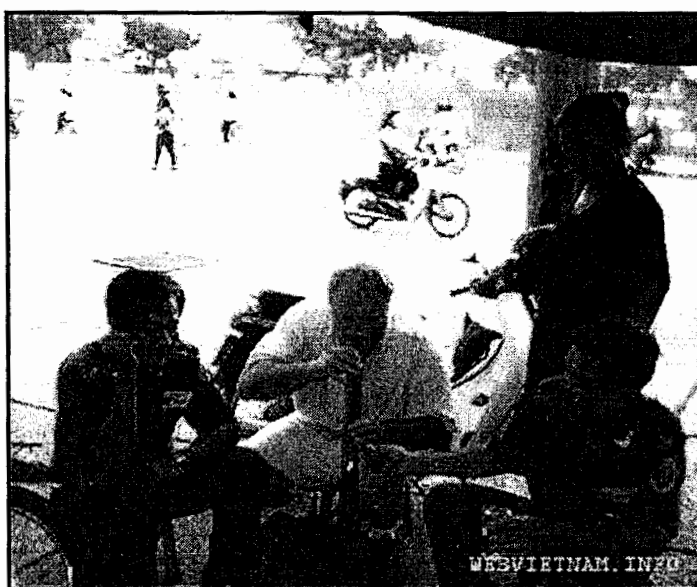
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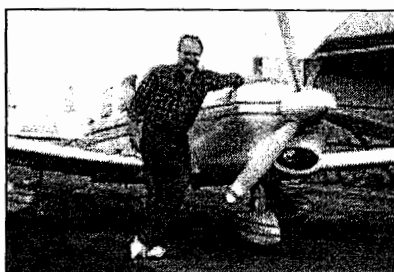
about
the author

About the Author - George "Hoey" Morris (Pictured in center of photo below)



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To view Mr. Morris' resume, click here

Mr. Morris served as an advisor to the South Vietnamese infantry during 1967-68. He experienced the "Tet Offensive" and was decorated by both the United States and South Vietnamese governments.

Mr. Morris flew a light plane into Ho Chi Minh City in mid 1989. After landing in former Saigon, he melted into the population until he was arrested in the town (Duc Hoa) where he once served as an advisor.



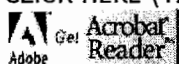
Dr. John Dunkelberger (right), chairman of the Rural Sociology Department at Auburn University co-authored the study that was published in the International Journal of Contemporary Sociology.

Mr. Morris completed the first post-war study inside the communist nation in 1992. This Auburn University study was later published and Mr. Morris presented the research in its entirety to the Southern Sociological Society.



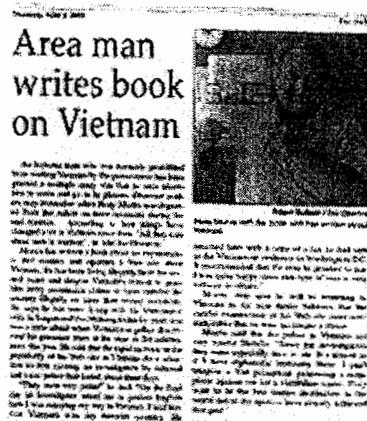
Mr. Morris later completed three more scientific studies involving the use of questionnaires, making him the most active scientist in the world on the subject of Vietnam. Mr. Morris has completed a total of four studies in that nation since the end of hostilities. This research may be viewed and printed at www.georgehoeymorris.com. This research was not condoned by the communist nation, and resulted in Mr. Morris's arrest and deportation from Vietnam on three separate occasions.

- To view newspaper articles about arrest... [CLICK HERE](#)
- Newspaper articles about the author's research [CLICK HERE](#)
- To view original arrest documents... [CLICK HERE](#) (1.8 meg PDF file. 3-5 minutes download time.)



To view the arrest records you may need to install the reader utility. Install only if you are prompted to do so.

- Mr. Morris witnessed the Vietnamese invasion into Cambodia (then known as Kampuchea) to drive out the Khmer Rouge. To view photos of that invasion. [CLICK HERE.](#)



Click on picture for larger image

Mr. Morris' illegal presence in Vietnam was discovered during Tet Celebrations 2003. The popularity of *webvietnam.info* and its controversial link to *virginbride.net* drew official attention and an investigation involving all levels of law enforcement. Investigators decided that Mr. Morris was no longer a threat and issued him a multiple entry Visa.

MENU

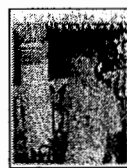
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Books by George "Hoey" Morris

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Vietnam in Pictures - This is perhaps the largest collection of photography depicting daily life in Vietnam. Included are some wartime snapshots. This material is offered FREE for publication. For a CD of these high resolution photos, please send your written proposal to this author.

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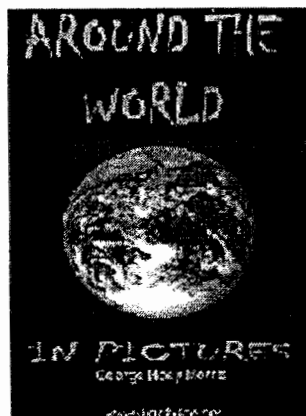
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Postwar Research Inside Vietnam - Mr. Morris was the first person to conduct a scientific study inside postwar Vietnam. This is the written description of four such research efforts by Mr. Morris and the results. Included are the frequencies of the PTSD study that have not been analyzed. This information is offered free to the scientific community. If you need a disc of this material for your thesis, dissertation, or to further the research; please send your written proposal to this author.

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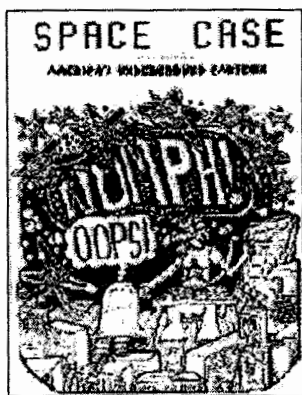
Around the World in Pictures - A collection of photographs taken by Mr. Morris during his extensive travels around the world. Included are snapshot from every continent except Antarctica. This material is offered FREE for publication. For a CD of these high resolution photos, please send your written proposal to this author.

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Space Case - This cartoon series is created in its entirety by Mr. Morris. Each image was drawn very large, photographed, and then reduced. This cartoon is offered FREE for publication. For a CD of the entire cartoon series, please send your written proposal to this author.

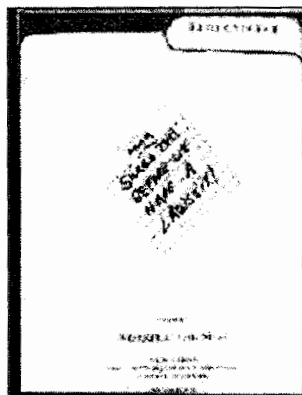


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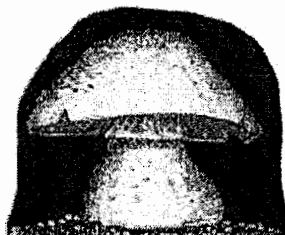
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THE iLLitEraTe FILES - These jokes and drawings were collected from the public domain by Phyllis Ann Morris, and edited by Mr. Morris. This humor is racist, sexist, and about every derogatory adjective you can imagine. The collection is offered back to the public domain at no charge. For a CD of this material, please send your written proposal to this author.

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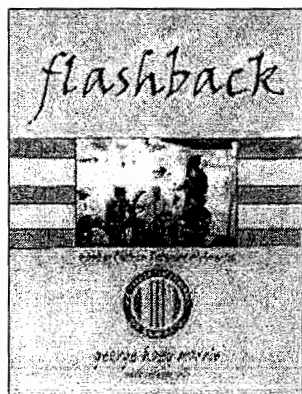
EGO TRIP

Ego Trip - Photographs and information about the author of this website. For a disk of this data, please send a written request to Mr. Morris.

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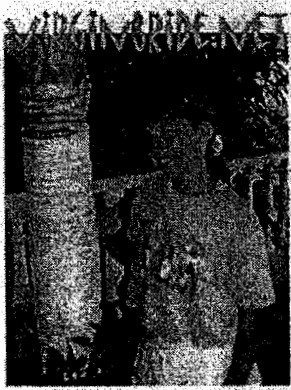
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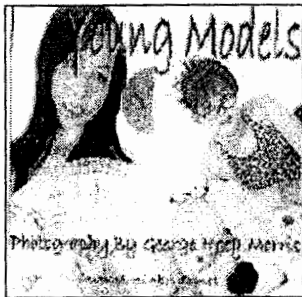


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**George "Hoey"
Morris
PO Box 240636
Eclectic, AL. 36024
USA**

go to www.webvietnam.info

Archive for October 15th, 2005

Wilma?

Saturday, October 15th, 2005

Tropical Depression 24 is sitting southwest of Jamaica and is in warm enough water that it will probably become Tropical Storm Wilma.

This is a bad position, as, depending on how the steering winds build, it could go almost anywhere, including following the path that Stan took over Central America.

Update: [10/17/05] It's officially Tropical Storm Wilma, and ties a record for the most named storms with a month and a half to go. No real indication where it's heading but it will probably become a strong hurricane in a couple of days.

Posted in Uncategorized | Comments Off

In Local News

Saturday, October 15th, 2005

This needs to be read twice to be understood: *Elections Fraud Arrest of Alleged Conspirator in International Sex investigation.*

Fifty-eight-year-old George Hoey Morris, of 385 Wade Morris Road in Eclectic, Alabama, and formerly of Okaloosa County, is charged with false swearing of voter information.

Investigators with the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office say although Hoey was convicted of a felony offense involving the sale of illegal narcotics in Colorado in 1980, he registered as a qualified voter in Okaloosa County in 1999 and cast a ballot in November 2002, a violation of Florida election laws.

Federal authorities say the arrest means Morris will remain in detention in the Montgomery Alabama City Jail where he's also charged with immigration fraud.

I'm including it because of the rarity of someone being arrested for voting fraud in Florida, and the fact the guy lives in Eclectic, Alabama. It takes some getting used to.

Posted in Uncategorized | Comments Off

Don't Miss It

Saturday, October 15th, 2005

The former SKB has a great Blue Heron picture. He is apparently going to be bird blogging on Fridays at *Facing South*.

If you like wildlife photography, don't miss it.

Posted in Uncategorized | Comments Off

Going to the Polls

Saturday, October 15th, 2005

Given the continuing downward trend in his poll numbers, the Shrubbery keeps trying to arrange events that put him in a better light, but they aren't working.

As Terry at *Nitpicker* notes he has Three Down and three to go for the complete set. Perhaps he should check with Colin Powell who apparently has some affinity for that attempt.

The latest failure, referenced in this CBS piece, *Bush, Troops Have Rehearsed Chat*, is insulting to the military.

While the 42nd Infantry Division is now a unit of the New York National Guard, the members should have more regard for the history of the "Rainbow Division" than to participate in a political event.

When Rumsfeld has a chat with the troops, it got embarrassing, but it was real. Real soldiers got to ask their questions, and Rumsfeld gave them answers. Rumsfeld may not have liked the questions, and the troops may not have liked the answers, but the event gave Rumsfeld information he couldn't get any other way.

Bush could have gotten his questions answered in the manner he wanted by watching the Pentagon TV channel. Talking to division Public Relations personnel is not the way to find out what is happening in a war zone and ordering the military to participate in staged political events is demeaning.

I doubt it was an accident that the rehearsal made it onto the general network feed. I would guess that someone who was unhappy with what was going on arranged for the "accident".

Posted in Uncategorized | Comments Off

- On-line Opinion Magazine featuring annoyed rumblings from the leading edge of the Baby Boom firmly tied to a reality-based world.

Established: 21 November 2004

- *The presence of those seeking the truth is infinitely to be preferred to the presence of those who think they've found it.*

Terry Pratchett

- Only 816 days until the Shrubbery gets uprooted.

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Sep 24
2004

Advertiser: Biased Headline 0

I'm disappointed with the *Montgomery Advertiser's* headline on one story this morning: Report Cites Conflicts for Lawmakers. Alabama was ranked 8th out of 47 states for the quality of its financial disclosure laws. That's good news, but we don't find it out until the 9th paragraph.

The Center for Public Integrity gave Alabama a grade of "C" for its financial disclosure laws, which ranked it eighth among the 47 states that have such laws. It said the state routinely reviews filings for accuracy and completeness and requires extensive disclosures. But it said disclosure requirements for the lawmakers' spouses are not as thorough.

Alabama state legislators receive about \$30,000 a year in salary and expenses to work a three-month regular session and occasional special sessions and usually have other full-time jobs.

The majority of the article is about various alleged conflicts of interest of different state legislators. Now, I would quickly acknowledge that some of these legislators have real conflicts, others seem a bit a of a stretch. However, this is not the main issue we face with the legislature. In fact, this is an area where we have been doing a pretty good job recently. The *Advertiser* should have been a little more balanced with its assessment, at least in the headline.

****UPDATE:** If you want to see your legislators financial disclosure forms [CPI has posted them here.](#)

Posted [Alabama Politics](#) on Friday, September 24th, 2004.

You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

Sep 24
2004

Wetumpka Mayor Golden Arrested 0

Many, many people are smiling this morning at the mental image of Wetumpka Mayor R. Scott Golden looking out from behind iron bars.

Court records show he was 56 minutes late to hear a motion to dismiss him as attorney for **George Hoey Morris**. **Morris** is suing the Covington County Sheriff and District Attorney for \$1 million for confiscating materials alleged to be child pornography and for the resulting financial loss and damage to his reputation.

Fuller wouldn't comment on the matter, but his court clerk's official minutes of the proceedings showed that the judge convened what was to have been a 2 p.m. hearing at 2:56 p.m. and asked Golden "why he was 56 minutes late for court today."

The minutes don't show what reason Golden gave.

"Counsel Golden is being held in civil contempt of court today and will be held in custody for two days, or in lieu of custody counsel may pay a total fine of \$235," the minutes stated.

And poor Mayor-elect Jo Glenn could say nothing but how embarrassed she was for the city.

Posted Prattville, Autauga/Elmore County Politics on Friday, September 24th, 2004.

You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.

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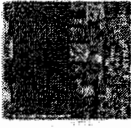

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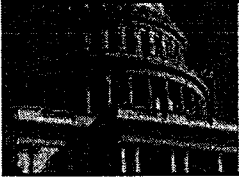
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Author seeks payment for seizure of books on child sex

03/17/04 - Living Legal - Chet - 8 Comments
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Make sure to check out the web site
I fail to understand... (1)

An author who promotes sex and marriage between men and girls as young as 12 is threatening to sue Covington County unless it pays him for books and CDs seized last year.

George Hoey Morris of Eclectic is seeking \$10,900 for the loss of more than 1,000 books titled "Virginbride.net" and 800 copies of "Young Models," a companion compact disc.

The self-published book tells men how to travel to foreign countries and find girls for sex and marriage.

"I don't agree with it, but that does not transform it into something illegal," R. Scott Golden, an attorney for Morris who wrote the county seeking repayment, said in an interview Tuesday.

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